

THE COURIER

Quarterly Publication of the Bethel Historical Society's Regional History Center
Volume 27, Number 2 (Summer 2003)

Society Receives \$112,500 Bequest for Endowment

A \$112,500 bequest from the estate of the late Barbara M. Willey, a life member of the Society formerly from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, has been received and established as a permanent endowment. Ms. Willey, who died in 2001, left a trust, which was divided into six shares with the Society receiving one share "for the benefit of the Moses Mason House in Bethel, Maine, to provide for the display of items relating to Austin Fred Twitchell, and for the upkeep of the Moses Mason House."

In announcing the gift, the largest to date in the Society's thirty-seven year history, Chairman of the Society Board of Trustees Allan Cressy said, "We are, of course, delighted with this very generous addition to our endowment. He continued, "The receipt of this gift certainly dovetails nicely with our current capital campaign and assists us in placing the Society's future on an increasingly solid basis."

Ms. Willey, a descendant of Bethel first settler and donor of the Bethel Common to the town, Eleazer Twitchell, was born in Portland, Maine in 1915, the daughter of Glen D. and Blanche Twitchell Willey. She was educated in Maine and New Hampshire, receiving a degree from Plymouth (N.H.) State College in 1937. She also later did graduate work at Harvard, Boston University and the University of Tokyo. In addition, she was the recipient of two National Science Grants, one at Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin and the other at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana.

For many years, Ms. Willey taught Grade 5 and was principal of the Faragut School in Portsmouth. After World War II, she went to Japan and taught at the Yoyogi School.

A longtime member of two honor societies for women educators, Delta Kappa Gamma and Alpha Delta Kappa, she was also a charter member of the Active Retirement Association. She attended and sang in the choir of the St. John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth for many years, and volunteered for the Seacoast Hospice. She assisted with the book cart at the Portsmouth Hospital and was a docent at the Warner House in Portsmouth.

An inveterate traveler throughout North America, Japan, Russia, China, and England, she once had tea with Emperor Hirohito of Japan.

Ms. Willey left no close relatives, but many dear friends and her beloved cat "Mundy." She is buried with her parents in Hillcrest Cemetery, Milan, New Hampshire.

In her college yearbook is recorded the following: "B.



*Barbara M. Willey during a trip to England in the 1970s
Photo courtesy of Plymouth State College*

Willey could always be depended upon to do her share and more. She works quietly with a pleasant smile and a happy heart."

Society Executive Director Stanley R. Howe recalls meeting her in the 1980s at the Dr. Moses Mason House. "She said," remembers Howe, "my aunt told me I should leave you some money." Howe responded with an enthusiastic, "That would be very good!"

The Barbara M. Willey Fund has been established by the Board of Trustees as part of the Society's endowment to benefit the Twitchell Collection and the Dr. Moses Mason House.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR ADVICE

Generous members and friends of the Bethel Historical Society contributed over \$630,000 for the purchase in 1998 of the O'Neil Robinson House, which added a second significant property to the Society's campus and brought much needed space for programming and exhibits. These funds also made possible substantial renovations, as well as furnishings, equipment and additions to the endowment to support operations. All of this did not, however, remove the urgent need for proper storage for the collections or for a greatly expanded research library.

The Bethel Historical Society continues to promote a vision that sets it apart from other similar institutions:

- To serve the greater Bethel area as a historical, cultural, and educational center
- To be a truly regional resource, serving northern New England
- To become a fully accredited museum as recognized by the American Association of Museums

To achieve these admittedly ambitious goals, the Society decided to continue with its original renovation plan by removing the un-usable 1930s ell of the Robinson House and replacing it with a 10,000 square foot "ell and barn" to house the new research library, climate controlled storage facility, history classroom, and traditional craft room. Construction of these proposed spaces will make it possible to protect our collection of rare artifacts, books, maps, and photo images, and provide a far more suitable work area for researchers and scholars than the cramped space now in use. This new wing will also return the Robinson House to its nineteenth century appearance, while allowing for expanded programming, enabling us to meet (and perhaps exceed) accreditation requirements.

Ambitions have a price tag. The estimated cost of these much-needed changes to the Robinson House is \$1.1 million. After raising over \$630,000 in Phase I of our campaign, the Society recognizes that this additional sum represents a challenge. But we also acknowledge that this vision requires investment if the Society is to properly care for its collections and realize its true potential. It is with this firmly in mind that the Board of Trustees enthusiastically endorsed this new phase of fundraising.

In order to oversee this effort, an expanded Capital Campaign Committee was formed, and it has been steadily laying the groundwork for this new phase of the campaign. Last fall we made initial contact with about two hundred individuals and families to determine their ability and willingness to make new or additional gifts. The reaction to

this first solicitation was encouraging in light of the prevailing national situation. Although a few indicated that the Bethel Historical Society was not their top priority for personal giving, no one expressed doubt about the merits of the project, and many suggested that gifts would be likely when the national economy improved. The Capital Campaign Committee was naturally pleased with such responses and understood the hesitation of some in light of the state of the economy and concerns about war and homeland defense.

In the face of such challenges, many non-profit institutions in our area have cut back or even suspended fundraising. We decided on a slightly different approach; our campaign continues, but we are moving slowly and waiting for improvements in the economy before proceeding more aggressively in seeking support. We continue to talk with potential donors, and we have received some modest grants from foundations and individuals. We are watching the economy carefully and remain eager to heighten the intensity of our fundraising. But, as always, we need your help:

- Do you know of individuals, corporations or foundations with the ability and interest to support our campaign?
- What further information about our plans and goals would help persuade interested members and friends to make gifts?
- Would you or others you know be interested in joining our committee to increase our reach?

Of course we encourage gifts of money, personal property, land, stock, or other assets to support our project. But we also need information. We are anxious to know how we can strengthen our efforts, widen our circle of potential givers, and carry the message about our vision to others.

We strongly urge you to tell us what you think. Advice and comments are welcome at any time, but as we plan our work for the coming fall and winter, we would be especially grateful to hear from you (in full confidence) by the end of October. You can phone locally 207-824-2908 or toll free 800-824-2910, e-mail us at info@bethelhistorical.org, or write any member of the Capital Campaign Committee at the addresses at the top of the next page.

On behalf of the Bethel Historical Society, we thank you for any assistance you can provide. We are committed to carrying forward our fundraising to ensure that the expansion of the Robinson House and the related benefits it will provide to our extended community become a reality. Together, we can achieve these ambitious goals.

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President's Column

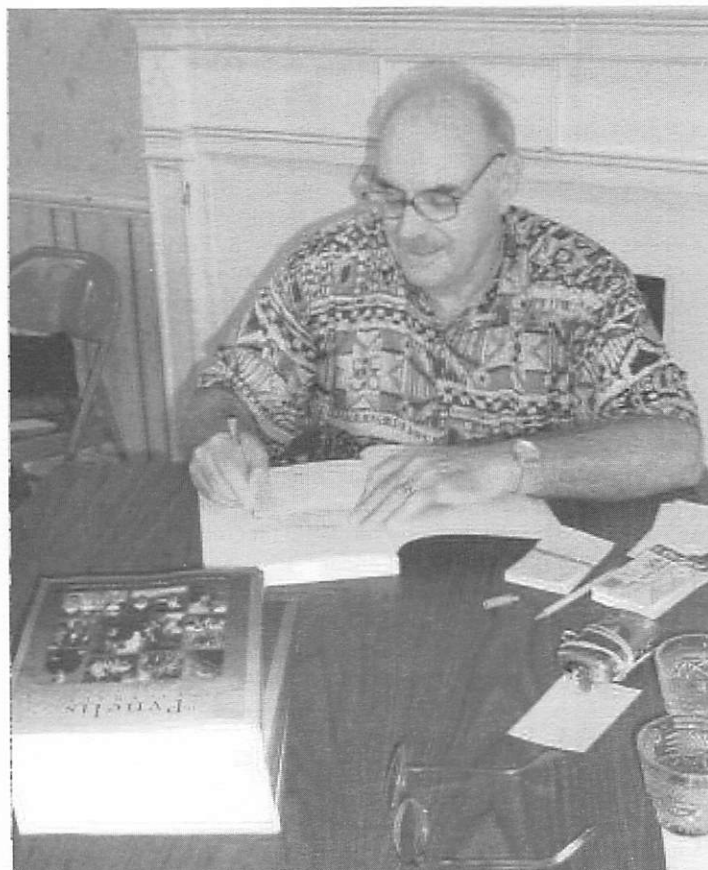
As we enjoy another summer, it is important to emphasize how much goes on here during this season when so many come to Bethel to experience the seasonal beauty of the area. Exploring our local and regional heritage can be an exciting adventure. By searching for forebears in our research library and cemeteries, touring our historic house museum, visiting our exhibits, and participating in our special events, one can gain some perspective on the past and how special this area is in understanding regional history.

At the Society, our knowledge of the area's history is always expanding through additional research and new publications and exhibits. We welcome new information and fresh ideas as to how history can be presented in innovative ways. If anyone reading this column has photos, documents, and/or historical information to share, we would be glad to become aware of the existence of these valuable resources.

Arlan R. Jodrey

ANNUAL FUND

Help keep the Society strong by making a gift to its Annual Fund Campaign. Tax deductible contributions help support its exhibits, special events, publications, and other programming. Gifts in any amount may be made throughout the year to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012.



*Robert Spidell of San Clemente, California autographs copies of his book *The Pynelis Journals in August* at a special reception. The *Journals*, part of the Society's collection, were edited by Spidell, a native of Andover, Maine, who published them with annotations and historical photographs. Photo, courtesy of Alison Aliosio*

Selectmen and Women of Bethel 1796-2003

1796-John Kilgore, Jonathan Clark, Jonathan Bartlett
 1797-Jesse Duston, Jonathan Clark, Jeremiah Andrews
 1798-Jesse Duston, Eleazer Twitchell, Jeremiah Andrews
 1799-Eli Twitchell, Gideon Powers, Oliver Fenno
 1800-Eli Twitchell, John Duston, John Holt
 1801-Eliphaz Chapman, Timothy Carter, Phineas Howard
 1802-Eli Twitchell, John York, John Holt
 1803-Eli Twitchell, John York, John Holt
 1804-Eli Twitchell, John Holt, Asa Kimball
 1805-Eli Twitchell, John Holt, Asa Kimball
 1806-Eleazor Twitchell, Nathan Adams, John Kilgore
 1807-Eli Twitchell, John Kilgore, Peregrine Bartlett
 1808-John Kilgore, Jr., Isaac Town, Samuel Kimball
 1809-John Kilgore, Jr., Samuel Kimball, Jonathan Abbott
 1810-Jonathan Kilgore, Jr., Jonathan Abbott, Peter York
 1811-Eli Twitchell, Jonathan Abbott, Peter York
 1812-Eli Twitchell, Jonathan Abbott, John Holt
 1813-John Kilgore, Jonathan Abbott, Samuel Kimball
 1814-John Kilgore, Jonathan Abbott, Samuel Kimball
 1815-Reuben Bartlett, Samuel Chapman, Barbour Bartlett
 1816-Eli Twitchell, Samuel Chapman, Elias Bartlett
 1817-Samuel Chapman, Peter York, Jonas Willis
 1818-Jonathan Abbott, Samuel Chapman, Asa Kimball
 1819-Jonathan Abbott, Samuel Chapman, Peter York
 1820-Timothy Carter, John Grover, John Holt
 1821-Timothy Carter, Samuel Chapman, Peregrine Bartlett
 1822-Phineas Frost, Samuel Chapman, Peter York
 1823-Timothy Carter, Phineas Frost, James Walker
 1824-Phineas Frost, Jedediah Burbank, Timothy Hastings
 1825-Phineas Frost, Jedediah Burbank, Timothy Hastings
 1826-Phineas Frost, Jedediah Burbank, Ebenezer Eames
 1827-William Frye, Adam Willis, Jonathan Abbott
 1828-Phineas Frost, Jedediah Burbank, Timothy Hastings
 1829-Phineas Frost, Moses Mason, Israel Kimball
 1830-Moses Mason, Israel Kimball, Elias Bartlett
 1831-Moses Mason, Israel Kimball, Spencer Drake
 1832-Moses Mason, Ebenezer Eames, Spencer Drake
 1833-Moses Mason, Norman Clark, Reuben S. Foster
 1834-Phineas Frost, Jedediah Burbank, Timothy Hastings
 1835-Phineas Frost, Jedediah Burbank, Timothy Hastings
 1836-Phineas Frost, Timothy Hastings, John B. Mason
 1837-Phineas Frost, Edmund Merrill, John B. Mason
 1838-Israel Kimball, Moses Mason, Phineas Frost
 1839-Moses Mason, Israel Kimball, Elhanan Bartlett
 1840-Moses Mason, Israel Kimball, Elhanan Bartlett
 1841-Moses Mason, Israel Kimball, Elhanan Bartlett
 1842-Phineas Frost, Ebenezer Eames, Nathan Grover
 1843-John Grover, Nathan Grover, William Goddard
 1844-Moses Mason, William Goddard, Elias M. Carter
 1845-Phineas Frost, Ebenezer Eames, Elias M. Carter
 1846-Elias M. Carter, John Y. Duston, Alphin Twitchell
 1847-Elias M. Carter, John Y. Duston, Alphin Twitchell
 1848-Moses Mason, Ebenezer Eames, Eliphaz C. Bean
 1849-Eliphaz C. Bean, Charles R. Locke, Tyler P. Town
 1850-Eliphaz C. Bean, Charles R. Locke, Tyler P. Town
 1851-Charles R. Locke, John B. Mason, Elias S. Bartlett
 1852-Phineas Frost, John P. Mason, Timothy Hastings
 1853-Elias M. Carter, Elias S. Bartlett, Eber Clough
 1854-Elias S. Bartlett, Eber Clough, Gilman L. Blake
 1855-Alphin Twitchell, Gilman L. Blake, Amos Young
 1856-Elias S. Bartlett, Clark S. Edwards, Timothy H. Chapman
 1857-Elias S. Bartlett, Clark S. Edwards, Timothy H. Chapman
 1858-Elias S. Bartlett, David F. Brown, Nathan W. Ethridge
 1859-Elias M. Carter, Eli Foster, John Barker

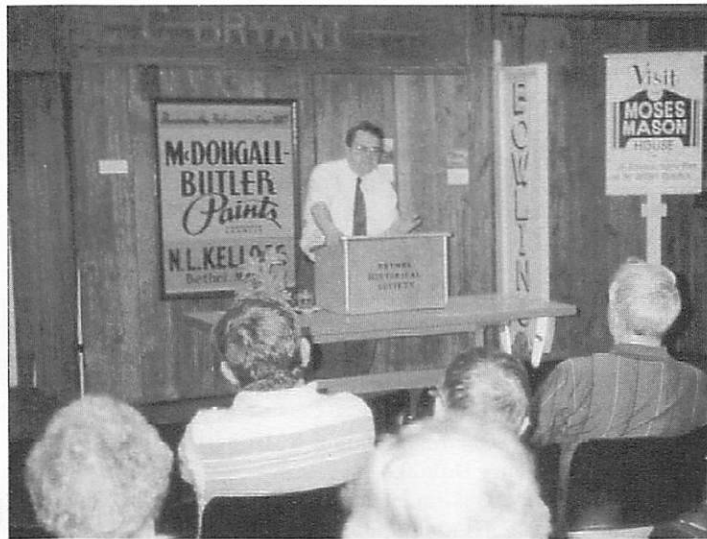
1860-Elias M. Carter, Eli Foster, John Barker
 1861-John Barker, Oliver H. Mason, Zachariah H. Bean
 1862-John Barker, Oliver H. Mason, Zachariah H. Bean
 1863-Alphin Twitchell, Benjamin T. Brown, Gilman P. Bean
 1864-Alphin Twitchell, Benjamin T. Brown, Gilman P. Bean
 1865-Gilman P. Bean, Israel G. Kimball, Sullivan R. Hutchins
 1866-Elias M. Carter, Sullivan R. Hutchins, David F. Brown
 1867-David F. Brown, Samuel B. Twitchell, Charles T. D. Crockett
 1868-Samuel B. Twitchell, Charles T.D. Crockett, Elbridge G. Wheeler
 1869-Samuel B. Twitchell, Charles T.D. Crockett, Elbridge G. Wheeler
 1870-Samuel R. Twitchell, Gideon A. Hastings, William H. Goddard
 1871-Gideon A. Hastings, William H. Goddard, Elbridge G. Wheeler
 1872-Gideon A. Hastings, William H. Goddard, C. Mellen Kimball
 1873-Elbridge G. Wheeler, Charles Mellen Kimball, Gilman Chapman
 1874-Charles Mellen Kimball, John Parker, Daniel B. Grover
 1875-John Barker, Daniel B. Grover, Charles V. Martin
 1876-John Barker, Daniel B. Grover, Charles V. Martin
 1877-John Barker, Charles V. Martin, Gilman P. Bean
 1878-Daniel B. Grover, Gilman P. Bean, William O. Holt
 1879-Daniel B. Grover, Gilman P. Bean, William O. Holt
 1880-Daniel B. Grover, Gilman P. Bean, Charles V. Martin
 1881-Daniel B. Grover, Gilman P. Bean, Charles V. Martin
 1882-Daniel B. Grover, Gilman P. Bean, Charles V. Martin
 1883-Gideon Hastings, Eldbridge G. Wheeler, William R. Eames
 1884-Elbridge G. Wheeler, William R. Eames, John D. Hastings
 1885-John Barker, William R. Eames, John D. Hastings
 1886-John Barker, William R. Eames, John D. Hastings
 1887-Gilman P. Bean, Albert W. Grover, Charles M. Kimball
 1888-Albert W. Grover, Charles M. Kimball, Eben S. Kilborn
 1889-Albert W. Grover, Charles M. Kimball, Eben S. Kilborn
 1890-Albert W. Grover, Charles M. Kimball, Eben S. Kilborn
 1891-Albert W. Grover, Charles M. Kimball, Eben S. Kilborn
 1892-Charles M. Kimball, Eben S. Kilborn, Henry Farwell
 1893-Eben S. Kilborn, Henry Farwell, H. N. Upton
 1894-Henry Farwell, H. N. Upton, J. B. Chapman
 1895-Henry Farwell, H. N. Upton, J. C. Billings
 1896-Henry Farwell, J. C. Billings, E. B. Shaw
 1897-Henry Farwell, J. C. Billings, E. B. Shaw
 1898-Henry Farwell, J. C. Billings, C. E. Barker
 1899-S. B. Twitchell, C. E. Barker, F. J. Russell
 1900-S. B. Twitchell, C. E. Barker, F. J. Russell
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 1904-S. B. Twitchell, C. E. Barker, F. J. Russell
 1905-S. B. Twitchell, C. E. Barker, F. J. Russell
 1906-C.E. Barker, F. J. Russell, F. F. Bean
 1907-F. J. Russell, F. F. Bean, William O. Straw
 1908-F. F. Bean, H. N. Upton, William O. Straw
 1909-F. F. Bean, H. N. Upton, William O. Straw
 1910-F. F. Bean, H. N. Upton, M. L. Thurston
 1911-F. F. Bean, M. L. Thurston, C. E. Barker
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 1914-F. F. Bean, M. L. Thurston, C. E. Barker
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 1916-Frank A. Brown, N. E. Richardson, Fred B. Howe
 1917-Frank A. Brown, N. E. Richardson, Fred B. Howe
 1918-Frank A. Brown, N. E. Richardson, Fred B. Howe
 1919-Frank A. Brown, Wade H. Thurston, Fred B. Howe
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1924-Frank A. Brown, Wade H. Thurston, Fred B. Howe
 1925-Frank A. Brown, Wade H. Thurston, Fred B. Howe
 1926-Frank A. Brown, Wade H. Thurston, Robert D. Hastings
 1927-Henry W. Boyker, Arnol R. Brown, John H. Howe
 1928-Henry W. Boyker, Arnol R. Brown, John H. Howe
 1929-Henry W. Boyker, John H. Howe, Herman Mason
 1930-Henry W. Boyker, John H. Howe, Carroll E. Abbott
 1931-Frank A. Brown, John H. Howe, Carroll E. Abbott
 1932-Frank A. Brown, John H. Howe, Carroll E. Abbott
 1933-Frank A. Brown, John H. Howe, Carroll E. Abbott
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 1935-Ernest F. Bisbee, Carroll E. Abbott, John H. Howe
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 1943-Ernest F. Bisbee, John H. Howe, Carroll E. Abbott
 1944-Ernest F. Bisbee, Carroll E. Abbott, Rodney K. Howe
 1945-Ernest F. Bisbee, Carroll E. Abbott, J. Cleveland Bartlett
 1946-Ernest F. Bisbee, Carroll E. Abbott, J. Cleveland Bartlett
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 1954-Carroll E. Abbott, James C. Bartlett, Harold G. Bennett, John H. Carter, Robert S. York
 1955-Carroll E. Abbott, Harold G. Bennett, John H. Carter, T. Richard Carter, Robert S. York
 1956-Carroll E. Abbott, Harold G. Bennett, John H. Carter, Addison Saunders, Robert S. York
 1957-Carroll S. Abbott, Harold G. Bennett, John H. Carter, Wallace Saunders, Murray W. Thurston
 1958-Harold Bennett, John H. Carter, Wallace E. Saunders, Burton L. Newton, Murray W. Thurston,
 1959-Maurice L. Kendall, Burton L. Newton, Wallace E. Saunders, Harold G. Bennett, John H. Carter
 1960-Burton L. Newton, Harold G. Bennett, LeRoy E. Barker, Maurice Kendall, Wallace E. Saunders
 1961-Robert W. Hastings, , LeRoy E. Barker, Maurice L. Kendall, Wallace E. Saunders, Blake MacKay
 1962-Maurice Kendall, Chairman, Wallace E. Saunders, Blake MacKay, LeRoy E. Barker, Robert W. Hastings
 1963-LeRoy E. Barker, Chairman, Richard L. Davis, Norman Greig, Robert W. Hastings, Blake MacKay
 1964-Norman Greig, Chairman, Richard L. Davis, LeRoy E. Barker, Robert W. Hastings, Rodney Eames
 1965-Rodney Eames, Chairman, Richard L. Davis, Norman Greig, Michael Stowell, James Hutchins
 1966-James Hutchins, Chairman, Rodney Eames, John Brown, James Hudson, J. Jay Willard
 1967-John K. Brown, Chairman, James E. Hutchins, James T. Hudson, J. Jay Willard, Rodney E. Eames
 1968-James T. Hudson, Chairman, J. Jay Willard, Howard F. Gunther, John K. Brown, James E. Hutchins
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 1972-John T. Grover, Chairman, Leland R. Brown, Samuel H. Timberlake, Maurice Roy, Avery Angevine
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 1974-Leland R. Brown, Chairman, John T. Grover, Arlan R. Jodrey, Bradley R. Barker, Samuel H. Timberlake
 1975-Leland R. Brown, Chairman, Samuel H. Timberlake, Bradley R. Barker, Arlan R. Jodrey, Stanley R. Howe
 1976-Bradley R. Barker, Chairman, Leland R. Brown, Samuel H. Timberlake, Arlan R. Jodrey, Stanley R. Howe
 1977-Arlan R. Jodrey, Chairman, Bradley R. Barker, Samuel H. Timberlake, Leland R. Brown, Stanley R. Howe
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 1981-Stanley R. Howe, Chairman, Samuel H. Timberlake, Peter Weeks, Arlan R. Jodrey, Patricia C. Dooen
 1982-Peter Weeks, Chairman, Stanley R. Howe, Vice Chairman, Arlan R. Jodrey, Patricia C. Dooen, Peter T. Haines
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 1988-Arlan R. Jodrey, Chairman, Arthur R. Gilbert, Vice Chairman, Peter T. Haines, Patricia C. Dooen, Victor L. Coolidge
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 1994-Arthur R. Gilbert, Chairman, John A. Thurston, Vice Chairman, Rick Whitney, Robert Chadbourne, Harry Dresser
 1995-Robert Chadbourne, Chairman, Rick Whitney, Vice Chair, Ruth Grover, John A. Thurston, Harry Dresser
 1996-Robert Chadbourne, Chairman, Rick Whitney, Vice Chairman, Ruth Grover, John A. Thurston, Harry Dresser
 1997-Robert Chadbourne, Chairman, Rick Whitney, Vice Chairman, Ruth Grover, John Thurston, Harry Dresser
 1998-Harry Dresser, Chairman, John A. Thurston, Vice Chairman, Reginald Brown, Ruth Grover, Robert Chadbourne
 1999-Harry Dresser, Chairman, Robert Chadbourne, Reginald Brown, Alvin Barth, Donald Bennett, Jr.
 2000-Harry Dresser, Chairman, Reginald Brown, Alvin Barth, Donald Bennett, Jr., Robert Everett
 2001-Harry Dresser, Chairman, Reginald Brown, Vice Chairman, Alvin Barth, Donald Bennett, Jr., Robert Everett
 2002-Harry Dresser, Chairman, Alvin Barth, Donald Bennett, Reginald Brown, Jack Cross
 2003-Harry Dresser, Chairman, Alvin Barth, Donald Bennett, Reginald Brown, Jack Cross

Photo Gallery



Volunteer Sarah Gamble poses with the winners of the Children's Parade at Sudbury Canada Days in August. This year's theme was "Famous Americans."



Allan R. Whitmore, Ph.D., Chairman of the University of Southern Maine's History Department, presented the 12th annual Hall Memorial Lecture as the first event of this year's Sudbury Canada Days. His topic was "Ellsworth's George Washington Madox (1821-1882) and This Down-East Democrat's Surprising Linkage of Know-Nothing Nativism to Radical Feminism and Marxism."



Helen Morton and Danna Nickerson of the Society's Art Committee stand in front of some of the winners of this year's contest, which stressed the theme of early aviation in the Bethel area



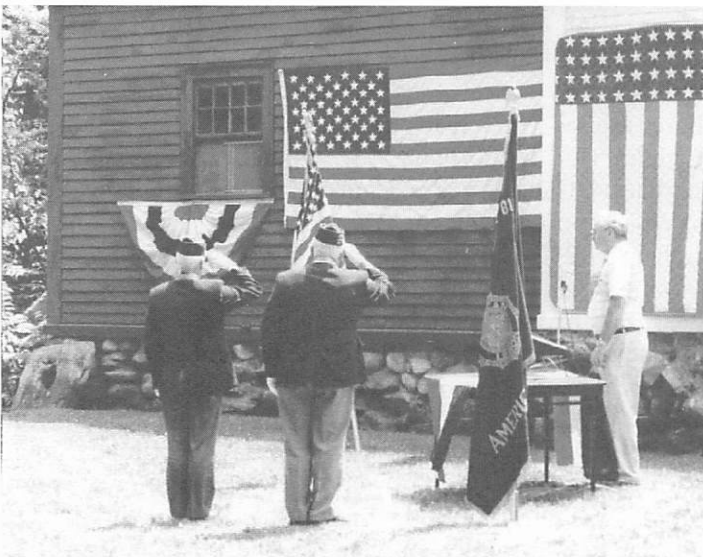
Ben B. Conant of the Paris Cape Historical Society addresses a Maine Archives and Museums historical research workshop held at the Society's Dr. Moses Mason House in June on genealogical sources. Also speaking were Jean Hankins of the Otisfield Historical on historical research and James Henderson of the Maine State Archives on document research



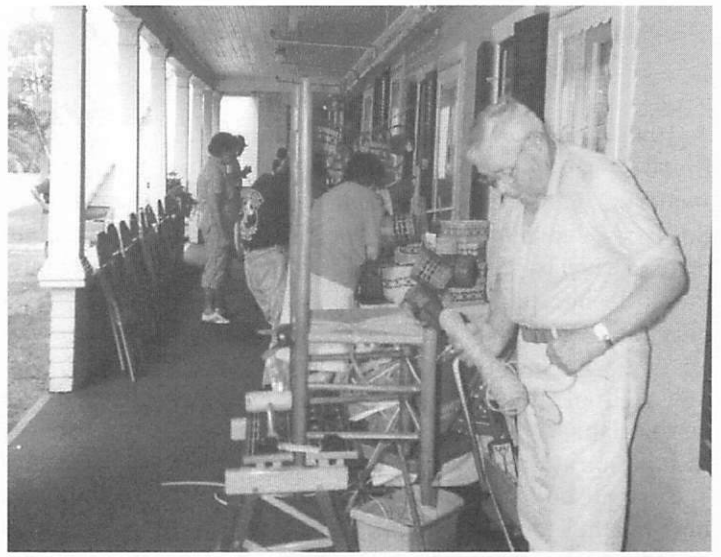
"Bill" Robertson (center) poses with Randall Bennett, Society Curator (left), and Don Provencher of the Gorham, New Hampshire, Historical Society. Mr. Robertson was the featured speaker on railroading in Maine as part of the lecture series on Maine transportation history supported in part by a grant from the New Century Community Program and the Maine Humanities Council



Emerson Clough (left), sexton, poses with Telstar Regional High School National Honor Society students who spent a morning in May raking and filling in gravesites at Woodland, Bethel's garden cemetery, as a community service project. Photo courtesy of Julie Hart.



The color guard of Mundt-Allen Post # 81 American Legion salutes the flag prior to the community picnic concert by the Portland Brass Quintet. President Arlan Jodrey, the master of ceremonies, stands at right. More than three hundred attended the picnic, a tradition that dates back to the days of Dr. Mason in the 1850s



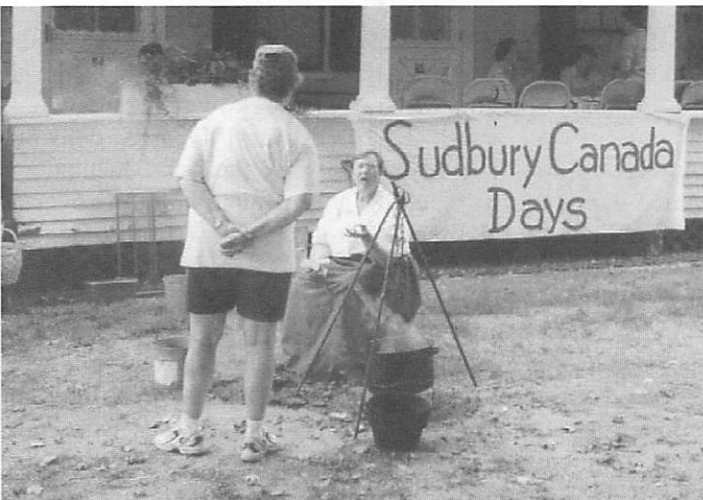
Alden Kennett installs a new seat in an old chair as part of the old-time craft demonstrations that were a feature of the annual Sudbury Canada Days



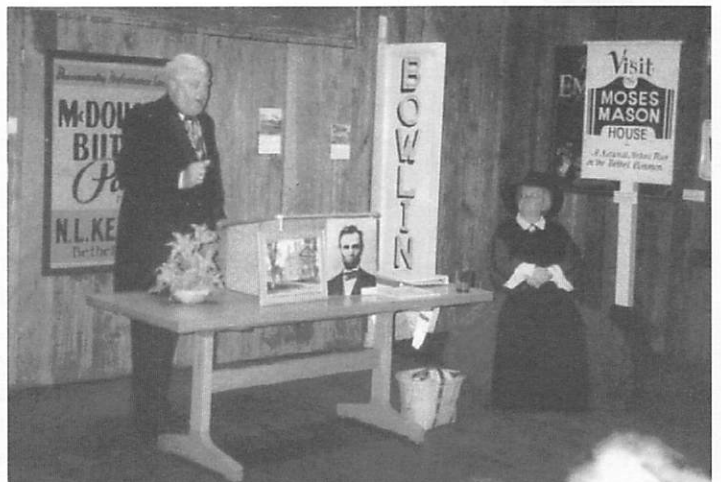
Women's dresses of the Civil War era were among the displays available to visitors during Sudbury Canada Days



A participant at the horse shoe pitching tournament aims for a ringer during Sudbury Canada Days



Grace McKivergan, seated, discusses her dye pot operations at Sudbury Canada Days



Hannibal Hamlin and his wife Ellen, portrayed by Richard and Sharon Newcomb of Hampden, visited Bethel during Sudbury Canada Days

Diary of William S. Hastings

(continued from the last issue)



1940-January 1, Clear, cold. Sawing ice. Liver is "acting up" again. Bad pain. We filled 2 ice houses. January 2, Clear, cold, windy. I'm laid up with liver. Bob in So. Paris. January 3, Cold, windy. Still laid up but feeling better. Driver's licenses came today. January 4, Cold & windy. Put up 10 bu. spuds. P.M. cut pulp on Coburn place. Snow is only about 2" deep in woods. January 5, Clear & cold. Norway all day with Farm Bureau women (That is, I carried 'em down). Looked up deeds. Bob took spuds to Johnson. \$1.05 per bu. January 6, Colder & windy. Filed saws. Joint Grange installation at Bryant Pond. Hartley Stewart installed. January 7, Clear & cool. Checked bearings of lines on Intervale for my map. Bethel too. Star officers meeting in p.m. Harringtons called in eve. about lines. January 8, Cloudy, clearing. Butchered veal calf. P.M. 4 hours surveying for Edwards & Harrington in Lot 20 R 2 Bethel. Worked until after dark. January 9, Clear, cold. Filed crosscut. Bethel to blaze the lines run yesterday, 1 hr. P.M. in woods cutting pulp. January 10, Clear & cold. I'm cutting pulp. Card party at Grover's (and supper). January 11, Cloudy. Put up load of spuds. P.M. 3 hrs. for Edwards in 20 R2. Installation of Masons in eve. I'm Senior Steward. January 12, Snow 3 in. Put up 40 bu. spuds in my back cellar for Stanley Swan. Norway in p.m. Back is in place. January 13, Cloudy. Butchered hog. Sawed 2 cords of wood for Ida Blake. "63" party [cards] in eve. January 14, Cloudy, light snow. Sawed wood for John. Greenwood. Ran out of gas on way home. Ran over a dog in Locke Mills. January 15, Snow 10" & rain. Butchered for John. Shoveled snow. Fixed lights for Farwells. Bob spoke over WGAN [Portland radio station]. January 16, Clear & cold. Bob is sick. Leslie [Noyes] & I cut pulp on Coburn place. January 17, -10 [degrees] Clear, cold & windy. Cutting pulp. Bob still sick. Whist Party in eve. at my place. January 18, -8 [degrees] Clear & cold. Cut pulp. Bob is hauling. Yarded in p.m. January 19, -5 [degrees] Clear & cold. Put up spuds. Norway in p.m., also Bethel & W. Bethel. January 20, -17 [degrees] Clearing & Cold. Bob & Dad in So. Paris. Leslie hauling. I'm tinkering. My Hodgman's Land Surveying came today. January 21, Clear & cool. I measured lot line between Lots 9 & 10 R8 by stadia. Hard traveling. P.M. called on the Billings. January 22, Cloudy. Put up spuds. Finished Haakon's. 35 bu. for John. January 23, Clear & cold. Put up potatoes in Coburn cellar. Back is bad again. Got car license at Bethel, 77-281. January 24, -5 [degrees] Clear & cool Broke roads on back lots down Hodgdon Hill. About 14" snow. Whist party in eve. [Ed & Marjorie] Billings. January 25, Light snow. Cold. Swamped roads in Bean Swamp (10R9). Started hauling peeled pulp. Masonic practice meeting. January 26, Clear & cool. Cutting in a.m. Norway in p.m. Dad Cole went with me for a treatment. January 27, -4 [degrees] Clear & cold. Bethel with Billy. P.M. building sled roll. "63" party at Grange hall. I'm on the committee. January 28, Clear & cool. I measured lines by stadia. Greenwood in p.m. January 29, Clear & cold. Hauling from Back Lot. January 30, Clear & cool. Cutting in Back Lot. Back is bad. January 31, Clear & cool. Ruth,

Edward, Bob & I went to Portland. Bob got his eyes fitted. February 1, Clear & cool. Put up spuds all day. 100 bu. for Bill Chapman @ \$1.10 per bu. February 2, Clear & warm. I chored around. Norway in p.m. February 3, Cloudy, cold. Gale at night. Bob in Portland. I'm around home. Fixed sled. February 4, Clear & warm. Hauled hay. 4 tons to Estes Yates [in Woodstock]. Sick at night. February 5, Clear & warm. Cut birch in 10R9. Star practice meeting. February 6, Cloudy, warm. Sawed wood in a.m. Cut birch in p.m. February 7, Clear & warm. Cut birch. Star Installation. Ruth is Associate Conductress. I'm Associate Patron. February 8, Clear & warm. Cut birch, hauled logs & limb wood. Inspection in Masons. February 9, Clear & cool, windy. Cut birch in a.m. Norway in p.m. Porter Farwell died this noon. February 10, Cloudy, cold. I carried subscriptions for flowers, \$11.80 [for Porter's funeral from his neighbors]. Worked on spring outlet. February 11, Clearing & warm after 5" of snow. Shoveled out garage & worked on spring. February 12, Clear & cool. Put up spuds all day. Card party at John's. February 13, Clear & warm. Bob in Portland. Valvoline brot [sic] kerosene. I hauled wood. February 14, Clear & warm. Cut birch all day. February 15, Clearing after a Nor'east wind all night. I started 2 incubators. Cut birch. 18 1/2 " snow in woods. February 16, Clear & cool. Set 2 incubators, 656 eggs. Norway in p.m. February 17, Clear & warm. I built new raves & floor for sap sled. February 18, Clear & warm. Got load of shavings at Chadbournes. Greenwood in p.m. February 19, Clouding. Surveyed for P. H. Chadbourne in Lot 17 & 18 R9 near Swan's Corner. Mileage \$1. February 20, Snow. Nor'easter. I traveled all day. Hanover, Bethel, Norway & home via Hanover again. Tough going. February 21, Clear & cold. I'm setting up brooder stove. February 22, Clear & cool. I shoveled a road into the granary. Ground 50 bu. or more of oats & 5 bbl. corn. February 23, -9 [degrees] Cloudy & cool. Started brooder fire. Norway in p.m. First load of fertilizer. February 24, Clouding, light snow. Heated 2 more incubators. Berkeley Henley brot [sic] 312 Rock chix [sic], 100 males, 200 staigt. February 25, Cloudy, cool. Grover, John & I went to "B" Pond [north of the Dead Cambridge R. in Upton] with my car. Road fair. Snow about 2 ft. Set 2 incubators. February 26, Clear & windy. I chored [sic] & delivered potatoes to Bryant's [market in Bethel]. February 27, Clear & windy. I'm repairing. February 28, Clear. Same. February 29, Clear & warm. Put up spuds. Had teeth fixed. Only 1 cavity. March 1, Clear, warm. Moved 2 more incubators into cellar. 6 in all. Norway for treatment. Pictures in eve. March 2, -14 [degrees] Clear & cold but warmed up. Worked all day on chix [sic] and incubators. March 3, -1 [degree] Clear & cool. Round home. Grover & Alice called. Also Walter & Florence Bailey [from Andover]. March 4, Cloudy. Town Meeting Day. I was Moderator. Same officers. Large vote. 441. March 5, Snow. I'm sick with a cold. March 6, Snow & rain. Little better. March 7, Snow, Rain. Put up spuds in a.m. Went to Paris for Chadbourne case in p.m. 2 hrs. & \$1 mileage. \$2.60. March 8, Light snow. Worked on brooder, etc. Chix [sic] hatched, 431. March 9, Clear, cool. Worked on chix [sic], etc. Put em under brooder stove. Eve. went to Bethel on Chadbourne job. All settled. Met Charles Hastings [youngest son of St. John and Elizabeth (Atherton) Hastings. He was Chief of the catalog division and rare book

collection at the Library of Congress]. March 10, Cold & cloudy. Went to Chadbournes lot in 19R9 & blazed line. 3 hrs. & \$1 mileage. March 11, Clear & windy. Around home. March 12, Clear & windy. Around home. Set 2 incubators. March 13, Clear & cool. Yarded pulp on a hand sled. Took front of barn cellar. Cleaned up a brooder house & repaired it. March 14, Cloudy, warm. Set up a brooder stove. House is ready for chix [sic]. March 15, Snow, 8" . Home all day. Skipped a trip to Norway. March 16, Clear, cool. 10 bu. spuds to Bryant. March 17, Clear & warm. Put 300 Rocks in the South house. Greenwood in p.m. March 18, Clear, warm. Bob in Portland. In p.m. Ruth, Ed & I went to Norway. Car greased, 25,000 miles. MM Degree in eve. at Granite Lodge, W. Paris. March 19, Clouding, warm. Unloaded phosphate. Shoveled off Bean place roof. March 20, Cloudy, war. Shoveled off Coburn roof. Checked manure spreader for repair. Sawed load wood. March 21, Clear & windy. I showed the Goulets a cordwood job on Coburn place. Rest of day in cellar, on brooders. F & G Assn. In eve. at Lockes Mills. March 22, Snow, 20", A.M. on brooders. P.M. to Norway, the car plowed in from Lockes Mills after 7 p.m. Road not plowed at all. Tough trip. March 23, Blow!!!Cold!! Wicked day. Drifts are awful. Roads are plugged. Truck plow came thru but it filled right full again. March 24, Cold & windy. Tractor plow came thru at 2 p.m. Snow is about 4 feet deep. Took Edward to Greenwood. March 25, Cold & windy. Ruth started for Orono [Farm & Home Week] at 7 a.m. I fixed Haines lights. Started a new brooder house. Set 2 more incubators. March 26, Cold & windy. Bob gone after lumber. I'm cleaning the big brooder house. March 27, Cloudy, cool. Cleaned South house & repaired North house. Bob in Portland. Freeman Merrill saw me about surveying. March 28, 0 [degrees] Started foundation for new brooder house SE of Coburn House. We bought a new separator, McDeering No. 2 with motor, \$86. March 29, Clear & warm. Davis truck delivered the lumber & we framed sills & floor timbers. I went to Norway in p.m. Ruth came home in p.m. March 30, Cloudy, rain. Laid match floor, framed front & rear walls & put up purtin plate. Rained hard in eve. March 31, Clear & warm. Set up separator. Greenwood in p.m. Roads are bad.

(to be continued in the next issue)

New Life Members

Jarrold Crockett, Locke Mills
Edwin "Bill" Robertson, Westbrook
Sara S. Carson, Oxford

In Memoriam

Died, 22 May 2003, Richard Hosterman, West Bethel, Life Member
Died, 28 May 2003, Pearline McMillin, Bethel, Life Member
Died, 14 June 2003, Linda Brown Foster, Pittsfield, MA, Life Member
Died, 13 August 2003, Dewey Thayer, Mason Township, Life Member

"An Oxford County Witch Story" by P. S. Bean of Cadott, Wisconsin, from the *Oxford Advertiser*, 10 January 1890.

In the early days of Oxford County, the people were very superstitious, believing in witches, ghosts, fairies and the like. In a certain town, there lived an old lady that was called a witch. If anything was amiss, it was the work of the witch woman.

As the story runs, this old lady wanted to buy a cow of one of her neighbors. The owner of the cow did not want to sell her, but the old woman was determined to have the cow, but could not prevail on the owner to let her have her.

The old lady told him, "You had better sell her to me, for she will not do you any good. Mark my words for it, you will see."

The next time they went to churn, the butter would not come with all the churning they could do. They gave it up and used the cream for cooking purposes.

The next week they saved the cream very carefully. On Saturday, the girl went to churn, but as soon as she began to churn the cream would foam and run over the top of the churn. The girl lost all patience at last. She had heard people say that a witch could be furied by heating a horse shoe red hot and putting it in the churn with the cream, and wishing to burn it on some particular part of their person.

We will call the name of the girl Virtue. She got the horse shoe and put it in the fire until it was red hot. Then she took the tongs and taking the horse shoe out of the fire raised the cover of the churn and dropped it in, naming the place she wished it might burn her.

The cream gave a yell like a woman. Virtue was so scared that she could not move, but some of the family in the next room heard the noise and rushed in to see what was the matter. She told them what she had done, saying she hoped she had burned her where she had wished.

Now it so happened that Virtue's mother had gone past the old witch lady's to visit a friend. Towards night when returning home, she called to see the lady. As she stepped in the door, the old lady said, "Virt thinks she has done a smart trick but I think I will be even with her yet."

The mother hurried home as fast as she could. As soon as she got into the house she asked Virtue what she had done to the old witch woman. She said she had heated a horse shoe and dropped it in the churn and wished it had burned her, and the cream had screamed like a woman in pain.

But the butter came without any trouble then. They had no more trouble about churning after that.

The hired woman at the old witch woman's house said that the old lady had the print of a horse shoe on the place that Virtue wished. Whether she ever got even with Virtue I know not. I have given the story as I have heard it told by Virtue herself and others that live near by the old woman. When I was a boy I believed this story, but my faith is somewhat shaken now as to the belief in witches.

Notes Regarding Bethel, Maine
by William A. Valentine
(continued from the last issue)



When I Saw a Bear

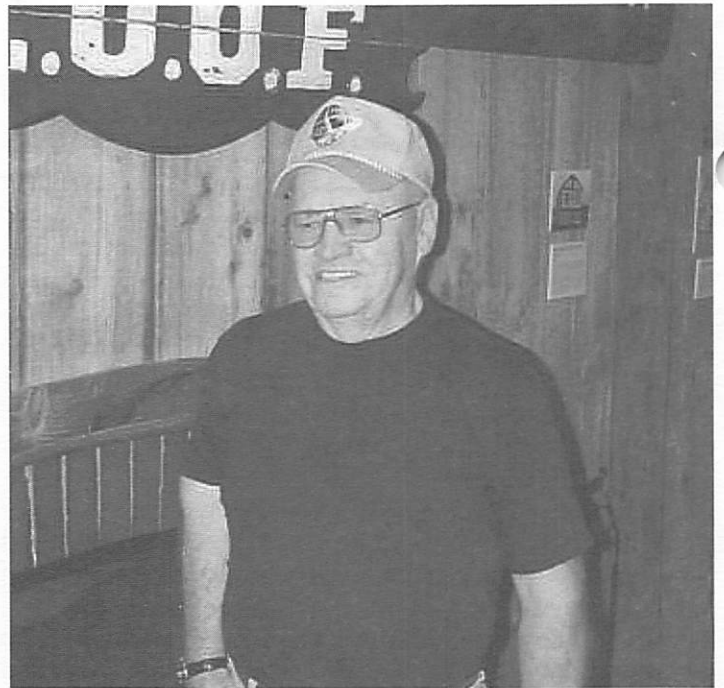
My father often used to celebrate his birthday August 8 by going on some mountain after blueberries, and when I was eight years old he concluded that I was old enough to be taken along. Father, brother Charles and I started bright and early and our next door neighbor's stepson Horatio Upton and their hired man came along too. We drove about 8 miles to Wight Brook and left our teams at a farmhouse there and first climbed Tumble Down Dick but did not find many berries there so [we] came down off that mountain and went across and up the side of Bear Mountain.

About noon, we came to a spring and stopped to eat lunch and while there Upton came to my father and asked what it was we saw further up the mountain. There was a kind of bush over-grown hollow place about a hundred yards wide and on the farther side of it was a bear and cub. I could not see over the bushes so Father lifted me up on his shoulder and by that time the cub was hidden so I did not see it, but the bear was standing on its hind legs to see better and looked to me like a big black dog. It dropped on all fours and started to move away, but apparently the cub did not follow and it came back a few steps and stood up to look again.

We started up the mountain toward it and it ran off across the ledges. We picked berries until it was time to start home and when we were pretty well down off the mountain our black and tan terriers chased a porcupine and luckily he reached a dead tree and started up it before the dog caught up with him. Father came to the tree and fired three shots at him with the little revolver that I still have. He said he hit him twice, but he realized the dog was standing on his hind legs against the tree in his eagerness to get at him and if he brought him down the dog would pitch into him and get hurt, so he stopped shooting at him and we left him up the tree.



Amy Davis, Helen Morton, and Judy Haskell served as hostesses in the Dr. Moses Mason House at the annual Heritage Day held on February 22. True to tradition, hot Indian pudding was served from the hearth of the winter kitchen



MEMBER PROFILE
Thomas J. Wheeler

Born in Berlin, NH, Thomas J. Wheeler was educated in local schools and graduated from Berlin High School in 1948. He spent the next two years studying applied agriculture at the University of New Hampshire. Following graduation, he worked as a scaler in the Brown Company logging camps. Later he graded lumber at the Hayward & Whitefield saw mill and was subsequently employed at the White Mountain Lumber Company. For the next eighteen years, he worked for the forest service as a forest technician at the Allegheny National Forest. He later transferred to the White Mountain National Forest. During his career with the U.S. Forest Service, he participated in a dozen or so fire details in the West. He also served on the NOVA advisory board in his capacity as a specialist in wood harvesting. He retired from the Forest Service in 1994 after thirty-three years.

In 1952, he married Margaret Potter (she died in 2001) and they had seven children and adopted two more. They also have ten grandchildren.

At the Society, he has been very active as a member of the Building Committee, assisted at the farming/logging exhibit during many Sudbury Canada Days, and been an enthusiastic volunteer for numerous projects throughout the years.

His hobbies include working with wood, reading, and restoring old cars and trucks.

Editor's Corner

This issue contains some very good news of the receipt of a \$112,500 bequest that provides an endowment to benefit the Austin Twitchell collection and the maintenance of the Dr. Moses Mason House. This is truly a remarkable development that represents another significant step in ensuring the Society's future. As Society members, we are all indebted to individuals like Barbara Willey, whose foresight has greatly strengthened our organization as it moves forward into the 21st century.

SRH



Joel Eastman, Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Southern Maine, led the 2003 Society Lecture series relating the transportation in Maine with his presentation on the history of the Cumberland and Oxford Canal. His presentation was brought to Bethel in part by a grant from the New Century Community Program and the Maine Humanities Council. Photo courtesy of George Nickerson

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Book Note

King Philip's War: The History and Legacy of America's Forgotten Conflict By Eric B. Schultz and Michael J. Touglias. (Woodstock, VT: Countryman Press, 1999. Pp. 416. Paper. \$18.95.)

At the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving in 1621, Massasoit, the sachem of the Wampanoag, was among the honored guests. A half century later, his son, King Philip, had been shot at the conclusion of a violent two-year conflict with the English settlers. His head was paraded around the streets of Plymouth in a barbaric show of triumph. This fact only underscores the sense of irony and tragedy that the events presented in this well-researched and illustrated book presents with such thoroughness. Over 800 colonists were killed throughout New England, but the Native Americans depicted here suffered even greater losses in their pivotal struggle with the white inhabitants. Devastated by disease and famine, they were removed from their ancestral homelands in southern New England. This book provides a comprehensive examination of this brutal conflict, which marked a turning point in the battle for control of New England. Those wishing a detailed and reliable guide to the sites where the great ambushes, raids and full-scale battles took place will find this volume of great interest.

To order, please see page 12.

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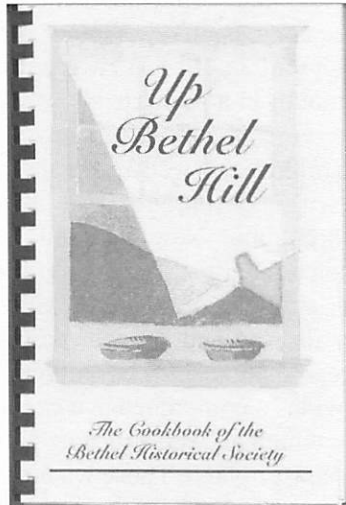
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*For a list of additional items available from the Museum Shop, please visit our web site at www.bethelhistorical.org

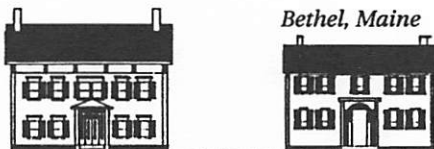
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